

**REMARKS**

The Office Action of January 28, 2004 has been reviewed Of the 54 pending claims, Claim 32, 44-46 and 49-54 were rejected and Claims 47-48 were objected to. Claim 32 is cancelled and Independent Claim 44 is amended.

Independent Claims 32 and 44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(6) as unpatentable over Jones '935. Claim 32 is cancelled. Independent Claim 44 is amended to require "the end of the 'longitudinally extending' conduits [to be] open to the sand screen exterior space." The longitudinal conduits 526 of Jones are not open to the space around screen 21; the upper ends are connected to conduit(s), 527 and, via various conduits, to port(s) 28. The claims, as amended are believed to be in condition for allowance. The remaining rejected claims and claims objected to depend from allowable Independent Claim 44 and are themselves allowable.

If the examiner is of the opinion that a telephone interview would speed prosecution of this application, please do not hesitate to contact Peter Schroeder at 214/220-0444.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Mail Stop: Non-Fee Amendments, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

on May 14, 2004  
Date of Deposit

Peter V. Schroeder  
Name of Applicant, Assignee or Registered Representative

  
Signature

May 14, 2004  
Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,

  
Peter V. Schroeder, Reg. 42,132  
CRUTSINGER & BOOTH, L.L.C.  
1601 Elm Street, Suite 1950  
Dallas, Texas 75201-4744  
(214) 220-0444, Fax (214) 220-0445

Attorneys for Applicant